

WILLIAM CROZIER
1735 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 12, 1931

Dr. Josef Strasser,
Wien, I. Opernring 19,
Austria.

Dear Sir:

I hope you will excuse the long delay of my answer to your letter of December 12, 1930, which has been due to my absence from home.

I think the following the best answers which I can give to the respective questions in your letter:

"1. Which resolution reached by you seems to you the decisive and the farthest reaching in the course of your life?"

In February of 1901, being then a captain of Ordnance in the United States Army, I was appointed by my government Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy at the U.S. Military Academy, at West Point, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, to be subsequently raised to that of colonel; which was a life appointment. I think the decision to decline this appointment, and remain in the Ordnance Department, has had more influence on my life than any other that I have been called upon to make.

"2. Did you come to this resolution spontaneously without without a long inner struggle, without consulting others and without being influenced by them?"

I considered the subject for some time; and I consulted my prospective wife. But my final decision, although it accorded with her views, was based upon my own conclusion of what was best.

"3. Were you influenced in coming to the resolution by the prospect of a decisive success or exclusively by a moral principle?"

The immediate success would have been greater upon acceptance; promotion from captain to lieutenant-colonel; but greater ultimate success was possible by remaining in the Ordnance Department. As indeed occurred when, a few months later, I was appointed Chief of Ordnance, with the rank of brigadier general. I think I was influenced by this possibility, although it then seemed remote. But I also felt, and so stated in my letter declining the appointment, that it would not be a spirited action for me, in my untrammelled circumstances, to accept the dignified and comfortable professorship, rather than to take the chance of greater usefulness in the Ordnance Department, as part of the Army at large, where the need of improvement was greater than at the Military Academy, which I considered to be then our best military organization.

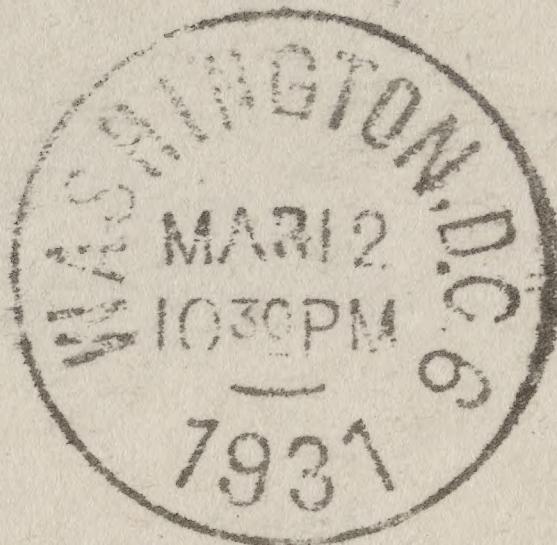
Hoping these answers may be of use to you I am

Very sincerely yours,

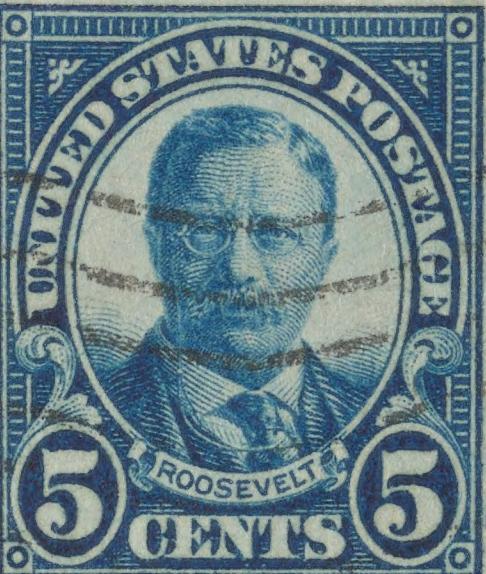
William Crozier

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